

Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2009

Statement on Thomas A. Daschle's Decision To Withdraw His Name From Consideration To Be Secretary of Health and Human Services

February 3, 2009

This morning Tom Daschle asked me to withdraw his nomination for Secretary of Health and Human Services. I accept his decision with sadness and regret.

Tom Daschle has devoted his life to public service and health care reform, so that every American has access to health care they can afford. I had hoped that he could bring this passion and expertise to bear to finally achieve that goal, which is so essential to the progress of our economy and the well-being of businesses and families across our Nation.

Tom made a mistake, which he has openly acknowledged. He has not excused it, nor do I.

But that mistake, and this decision, cannot diminish the many contributions Tom has made to this country, from his years in the military to his decades of public service.

Now we must move forward with our plan to life this economy and put people back to work.

Categories: Statements by the President : Daschle, Thomas A., decision to withdraw consideration to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Names: Daschle, Thomas A.

Subjects: Health and Human Services, Department of : Secretary-designate.

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